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Fitzwilliam, NH 03447  
May 12, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, Md. 20852

Re: Docket No. 98N-1038  
"Irradiation in the Production,  
Processing, and Handling of  
Food."

Dear Sirs:

Whether or not Monsanto's genetically-altered seeds will ultimately prove to be completely safe in farm products; and whether or not the administration of bovine growth hormones (BGH) to drastically increase milk production in cows will prove safe for human consumption, the real issue is the public's right-to-know, which supersedes any paternalistic censorship on the part of government in respect to the labeling of products.

The public has a right to know which products have been altered, and the means by which they are altered; and these products should be clearly labeled to indicate this.

It is a dangerous road for any government to take when it censors information on the assumption that the public is not smart enough to act in its own best interests. Government would do better to educate people to make their own choices than to conceal important information from them, which may directly affect their well-being.

Please reconsider the issue of honesty in labeling. Thank you.

Sincerely, Arian C. Schuster

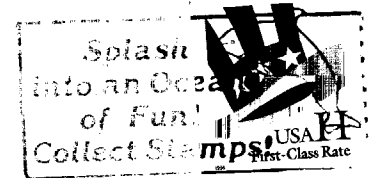
*Arian C. Schuster*

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